

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8791

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2317

ADDIS ABABA FOR ASST SECTY DAVIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA)(SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN)

(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: A) STATE 149719 B) DAR ES SALAAM 2316 C) DAR ES SALAAM 2315

1. CONCUR COMPLETELY IN STATEMENT IN PARA ONE, REF A. I HAVE STRESSED TO PARENTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES THEY NOT REVEAL PRIVATE RANSOM WAS PAID FOR RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED STUDENTS. THIS NOT ONLY ACCORDS WITH EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH PRP REPS, BUT IS MADE MORE PALATABLE BECAUSE ONE STUDENT REMAINS CAPTIVE AND WE CAN UNDERSCORE NECESSITY OF NOT JEOPARDIZING HIS ULTIMATE RELEASE UNHARMED.

2. AS INDICATED IN PARA FIVE, REF B, WE ARE UPDATING GUIDANCE

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WE WISH USE HERE ONLY ON QTE IF ASKED BASIS UNQTE. PROPOSED

Q AND A FOLLOWS:

Q. ONLY TWO OF THE THREE STUDENTS WERE RETURNED YESTERDAY.
WHY WASN'T STEVEN RELEASED?

A. AS THE STUDENTS WHO ARE HERE TODAY CAN TELL YOU, STEVEN
IS IN GOOD HEALTH. WE HOPE HIS RELEASE CAN OCCUR LATER THIS
WEEK. WE CANNOT COMMENT FURTHER ON ANY CONDITIONS IN CONNECTION
WITH HIS RELEASE.

Q. THE CAPTORS HAD DEMANDED MONEY, GUNS AND AMMUNITION AND THE
RELEASE OF THEIR COMRADES HELD IN TANZANIA. WERE THESE DEMANDS
MET?

A. WE CANNOT DISCLOSE WHAT WAS OR WAS NOT DONE TO SECURE THE
SAFE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS. REMEMBER THAT ONE STUDENT HAS
NOT YET BEEN RELEASED.

Q. WAS RANSOM PAID?

A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PAY RANSOM AND DOES NOT CONDONE
PAYMENT OF RANSOM BY OTHER PARTIES. THIS IS THE POSITION ALSO OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT
MADE ITS POSITION QUITE CLEAR SOME TIME AGO.

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT FURTHER?

A. THERE IS NOTHING TO ADD.

Q. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE STUDENTS WERE BEING HELD ON THE ZAIRE
SIDE OF LAKE TANGANYIKA. HOW DID THEY GET BACK TO TANZANIA?

A. A MOTOR LAUNCH WAS USED TO BRING THE STUDENTS ACROSS THE LAKE.

Q. HOW WAS THE AGREEMENT REACHED WHICH LED TO THE RELEASE OF
THE STUDENTS?

A. DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN TANZANIA WITH TWO INTERMEDIARIES
OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP).

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Q. HOW WAS CONTACT ESTABLISHED WITH THEM?

A. THESE INTERMEDIARIES CONTACTED INTERESTED PARTIES.

Q. WHO TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRP INTERMEDIARIES?

A. SEVERAL PEOPLE SAW THEM. DR. HAMBURG OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY
AND THE AMERICAN STUDENTS' PARENTS PLAYED THE KEY ROLE. IT IS

NOT NECESSARY TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. WERE U.S. OR THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY OFFICIALS PRESENT WHEN
THE STUDENTS WERE RELEASED?

A. NO.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES SATISFIED WITH THE COOPERATION FROM THE
GOVERNMENTS OF ZAIRE AND TANZANIA?

A. YES.
CARTER

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NNN

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